

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present application is a ~~divisional under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)~~ continuation of prior application Serial No. 09/271,531 filed March 18, 1999 by Takashi INOUE entitled ELECTRONIC IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS, now U.S. Patent No. 6,714,248 B1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The electronic image pickup apparatus 1 comprises: an image imager 21 that converts a subject image formed by a picture-taking lens system 13 as shown in Fig. 1 into an electrical signal and is composed of, for example, a CCD and the like; a picture-taking circuit 22 for performing predetermined image processing (preprocessing) for an image signal converted by the imager 21; an A/D converter 23 for converting the image signal (analog signal), outputted from the picture-taking circuit 22 into a digital signal; memory 24 such as a buffer memory for temporarily recording image information converted into the digital signal; a D/A converter 25 for converting the digital signal recorded in the memory 24 into an analog signal in an optimum state for displaying the image on a picture display unit, that is, an LCD monitor 17 that is a reflective liquid crystal display unit which is small and has low power consumption; an LCD driver 26 for performing drive control of the LCD monitor 17; a compression/decompression circuit 27 that performs compression processing so as to make it possible to record the digital image signal recorded in the memory 24 onto a recording medium 11 such as a memory card and performs decompression processing so as to restore the image signal recorded on the recording medium 11 in a compressed state to a signal in a form such that various types of image processing can be performed; a memory card slot 6 which is a recording medium port composed of a mount port used for mounting the recording medium 11, a card I/F (an electrical circuit), and the like; a serial connecting terminal 8 for mounting connection means such as a connection cable for electrically connecting the apparatus 1 to an external peripheral device (not shown) such as a personal computer; a serial interface (I/F) 28 composed of an electrical circuit for connecting the

serial connecting terminal 8 to the compression/decompression circuit 27 and the like; a D/A converter 29 for converting the digital image signal recorded in the memory 24 into an analog signal in an optimum state for performing processing in an external piece of equipment (not shown) which can process a video signal and the like, such as a TV monitor; a video connecting terminal 7 for mounting connection means such as a connection cable for electrically connecting the apparatus 1 to the external equipment; a video interface (I/F) 30 composed of an electrical circuit for connecting the video connecting terminal 7 to the D/A converter 29 and the like; an external power input terminal 9 for supplying power from an external power supply; a power supply battery 18 such as a plurality of dry cells to be contained inside the apparatus 1; a switching circuit 32 of power supply routes that performs switching between two lines of the power supply means, that is, the power supply battery 18 and the external power input terminal 9; a DC/DC converter 33 for converting a power supply voltage supplied thereto; a mode LCD 35 that is a display means for displaying an operation mode of the apparatus 1 and the settings of different functions so as to make it possible to visually identify the mode and settings; a strobe unit 37 that is an auxiliary light source and is composed of a strobe flashing unit 15, a capacitor 16 for strobe flashing, a strobe circuit 31, and the like; respective members such as operating switches 36 composed of a plurality of input switches for inputting various input signals to the apparatus 1, and the like; and a system controller 34 that is a control means for controlling the entire apparatus 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A picture-taking lens barrel 12 holding a picture-taking lens system 13 is provided at a predetermined position that is a little to the right from the central vicinity of the front side as viewed from the front of the electronic image pickup apparatus 1. An imager 21 is provided behind this picture-taking lens barrel 12 which has its image pickup plane trained toward the front (not shown in Figs. 2 to 4). Due to this arrangement, a subject image condensed by the picture-taking lens system 13 is imaged on the image pickup plane of the image imager 21. In

addition, for example, a lens system composed of a single focus lens system having a single focal distance is used as the picture-taking lens system 13.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In addition, the LCD monitor 17 can reproduce and display image data recorded on the recording medium 11 after image pickup by the apparatus 1 as an image, and is arranged substantially at the center of the back side of the body of the apparatus 1 with its image display screen located on the back side so as to be parallel to the principal plane of the body of the apparatus 1. This LCD monitor 17 can reproduce and display the image data recorded as an image at the time of a reproducing operation, and further has a role as a finder for observing the subject image similarly to the finder optical system 14 and determining an image pickup range and the like. A plurality of operating switches (not shown) for commanding functions at the time of using the LCD monitor 17 are provided in the vicinity of the LCD monitor 17.